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if an error is detected in a module, then replacing a defective module by a module following the defective module by switching the first switching element and the second switching element, a last module in the ordered modules being replaced by the supplementary module.

Remarks

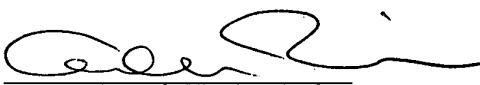
This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1-17, and adds new claims 18-35. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the specification and abstract conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Jan 2 2001

By: 
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